(c) whether the system will be reviewed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) STD PCO are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members, and non-official members, one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) No, Sir.

(c and d) No, Sir. The policy has already been reviewed recently.

Expansion of Telephone Exchange at Vegeswarapuram and Polavaram in West Godavari

457. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient expansion of Vegeswarapuram and Polavaram Exchanges in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh is not being done;

(b) the present capacities of Polavaram and Vegeswarapuram telephone exchanges;

(c) whether these two exchanges are proposed to be expanded shortly; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve telecom capacity in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The present capacity of Polavaram is 184 Lines and that of Vegeswarapuram it is 336 Lines.

(c) It is proposed to install 824 Lines C-DOT SBM Exchange at Vegeswarapuram during 1997-98. However, at Polavaram exchange sufficient spare capacity is still available to clear the W/L. This Exchange will be expanded suitably as and when the demand increases.

(d) All the MAXIII type Electromechanical exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges. During 1997-98, it is proposed to add about 20000 Lines by way of installing 20 electronic exchanges of various sizes and carrying out expansions of existing exchanges at about 9 places.

Post offices in Bihar

458. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of villages without post offices in Bihar during 1995-96 and 1996-97, as on date;

(b) the number of villages in the State having Post Offices, distict-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices proposed to be opened during 1996-97 in the State, distict-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) the number of villages without Post Offices in Bihar during 1995-96 and 1996-97 as on date is as under:

Year	No. of villages without Post Office.
1995-96	66718
1996-97 (as on date)	66696

(b) the district-wise and category-wise number of Villages having Post Offices in given in Statement x-I (*See* below).

(c) the targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise.

Post Offices are opened on norm based justification depending upon merits in each case. The districtwise and category-wise number of Post Offices opened so far in 1996-97 in Bihar is given in Statement-II below.

Statement I

Details of Number of Villages in the State of Bihar having Post Offices District-wise & Category-Wise

S.No.	Name of District	Head Postoffices (HOS)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOS)	Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices (EDSOS)	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOS)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Patna	—	18	7	290	315
2.	Nalanda	—	16	4	291	311
3.	Vaishali	—	24	4	212	240
4.	Jahanabad	—	17	3	146	166
5.	Gaya	—	28	—	338	366
6.	Nawada	—	18	4	175	197
7.	Saran	—	42	3	320	366
8.	Siwan	—	28	—	284	312
9.	Gopalganj	—	15	—	179	194
10.	Bhojpur	—	26	2	154	282
11.	Bhagalpur	—	12	11	216	239
12.	Banka	—	11	12	163	186
13.	Munger	—	21	1	98	120
14.	Lakhisarai	—	2	1	49	52
15.	Sheikhpura	—	12	1	68	81
16.	Jamui	—	9	—	132	141
17.	Godda	—	4	—	161	170
18.	Purnea	—	9	—	161	170
19.	Katihar	—	12	—	161	173
20.	Madhepura	—	9	—	90	199
21.	Khagaria	—	8	1	25	34
22.	Buxar	—	22	—	148	170
23.	Rohtas	—	28	—	251	279
24.	East Champaran	—	33	1	371	405
25.	West Champaran	—	16	1	254	271
26.	Araria	—	8	—	146	154
27.	Kishanganj	—	4	—	81	85
28.	Madhubani	—	29	1	386	416
29.	Muzaffarpur	—	33	13	336	382
30.	Darbhanga	—	26	—	298	324
31.	Samastipur	—	33	5	343	381
32.	Saharsa	—	11	—	150	161

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Supaul	—	15	—	156	171
34.	Begusari	—	16	4	195	215
35.	Sitamarhi	—	17	1	261	279
36.	Sheohar	—	—	—	39	39
37.	Ranchi	—	13	6	296	315
38.	Gumla	—	11	—	206	217
39.	Lohardaga	—	2	3	78	83
40.	Giridih	—	14	—	166	180
41.	Bokaro	—	4	—	105	109
42.	Dhanbad	—	—	5	119	124
43.	East Singhbhum	—	6	1	153	160
44.	West Singhbhum	—	15	—	171	186
45.	Bhabhua	—	6	—	96	102
46.	Dumka	—	9	1	188	198
47.	Deoghar	—	8	1	136	145
48.	Shahibganj	—	11	—	141	152
49.	Pakur	—	4	—	62	66
50.	Aurangabad	—	15	3	241	259
51.	Palamau	—	18	1	233	252
52.	Garhwa	—	5	—	78	83
53.	Hazaribagh	—	25	5	157	187
54.	Chatra	—	4	2	75	81
55.	Koderma	—	5	2	45	52
	TOTAL	1	807	110	10151	11069

Statement II

Details of Number of Post Offices opened during 1996-97 in the State of Bihar District-wise & category-wise

S.No.	Name of Districts	Head Post Offices (HOs)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices (EDSOs)	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	West Singhbum	—	—	—	2	2
2.	Pakur	—	—	—	1	1
3.	Ranchi	—	—	—	2	2
4.	Gumla	—	—	—	2	2
5.	Rohtas	—	—	—	1	1
6.	Begusarai	—	—	—	1	1
7.	Saran	—	1	—	1	2
8.	Patna	—	—	—	2	2
9.	Bhojpur	—	—	—	1	1
10.	Sheikhpura	—	—	—	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Saharsa	—	—	—	1	1
12.	Supaul	—	—	—	1	1
13.	Siwan	—	—	—	1	1
14.	Sitamarhi	—	—	—	1	1
15.	Gaya	—	—	—	1	1
16.	Samastipur	—	1	—	—	1
17.	Darbhanga	—	1	—	—	1
18.	Lohardaga	—	1	—	—	1
19.	Gopalganj	—	1	—	—	1
20.	Madhepura	—	1	—	—	1
	Total:	—	6	—	19	25

Purchase of Maritime Surveillance Radar

459. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has offered to supply maritime surveillance radar ELM-2022-A, that can be fitted on to patrol copters to counter the threat posed by acquisition of P-3c Orion maritime surveillance aircraft from United States by Pak Navy, if so, the details of offer made;

(b) whether the offer has been accepted; if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) An offer has been received from Israel for a maritime surveillance radar.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken in the matter.

मृत भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के आश्रितों को नौकरियां प्रदान किया जाना

460. **श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या रक्षा मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मृत भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के उन आश्रितों की संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें नौकरी दी गई है तथा उन आश्रितों की संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें नौकरी नहीं दी गई है;

(ख) उन्हें अब तक नौकरी न दिए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इस संबंध में न्यूनतम आयु-सीमा क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन०वी०एन० सोमू): (क) और (ख) रोजगार के मामले में दिवंगत "भूतपूर्व सैनिकों" के आश्रितों को कोई विशेष छूट नहीं दी जाती है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

भारतीय आकाश में पाकिस्तानी विमान का घुस आना

461. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कच्छ (गुजरात) की तरफ से पाकिस्तान का एक विमान भारतीय आकाश में घुस आया था तथा उसे भारतीय सेना द्वारा मार गिराया गया था, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उक्त विमान के भारतीय आकाश में प्रवेश का क्या मकसद था;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने पाकिस्तान की सरकार के समक्ष इस घटना पर आपत्ति जतायी है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में पाकिस्तान सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० वी० एन० सोमू): (क) से (घ) भारतीय वायुसेना ने 15 जनवरी, 1997 को एक घुसपैठिये पायलटरहित वायुयान पर गोलीबारी की थी। उस वायुयान का कोई